

inner toe of the fore foot with a distinct, pointed claw; claws rather large, those of the fore feet but slightly arched. Fur rather long, and moderately soft; general tint of the upper parts of the body, brown, of the sides of the head and body, grayish, but with a yellow wash; the lower part of the sides of the body and of the cheeks, the tip of the muzzle, and the whole of the under parts, white; feet dirty white; ears densely clothed with short hairs, those on the inner side chiefly of an ashy-brown colour, and those on the outer side dusky; the hairs of the back are of a deep lead colour at the base, black at the tip, and annulated with yellow near the tip; the longer hairs, which are thickly interspersed, are totally black; on the under parts of the body the hairs are gray at the base, and broadly tipped with white; the upper surface of the muzzle is blackish; the moustaches are black; the incisors are yellow.

	In.	Lines.		In.	Lines.
Length from nose to the root of tail	6	9	Length of tarsus (claws included)	1	6
of tail	5	4	of ear	0	7
from nose to ears	1	8			

Habitat, Maldonado, La Plata (*June*.)

This species is about the size of *Mus Rattus*, but is stouter in its proportions; as in *Mus nasutus*, the thumb is furnished with a pointed claw. The molars of the lower jaw are figured in Plate 34, fig. 11, *a*.

"This rat was caught in so wet a place amongst the flags bordering a lake, that it must certainly be partly aquatic in its habits."—D.

## 21. MUS BRAZILIENSIS.

### PLATE XIX.

Rat du Brésil, Geoff.

*M. supra fuscus fulvo lavatus; lateribus capitis corporisque æquè ac abdomine auratis; gula pectoreque albis; pedibus pilis sordidè flavis tectis; auribus parvulis; caudæ caput corpusque ferè æquante; vellere longo, molli.*

DESCRIPTION.—Head somewhat arched, and rather short; ears small; tail about equal in length to the head and body, measured in a straight line; tarsi large. Fur long, and rather soft; general colour deep golden yellow: on the upper surface of the head and the back, long glossy black hairs are thickly interspersed, and produce, with the admixture of the deep golden

colour of the ordinary fur, a dark brown tint; chin, throat, chest, and rump, white; the hairs covering the upper surface of the feet are of a dirty yellowish-white colour, and on the toes nearly white: ears densely clothed with longish hairs, those on the inner side chiefly of a deep golden colour, and those on the outer side brownish; the ears are partially hidden by the long fur of the head; tail sparingly clothed with hairs, above brown, and beneath brownish-white: the fur of the back is of a deep gray colour at the base, annulated with deep golden yellow near the apex, and blackish at the apex; the longer hairs are black; the hairs of the belly are pale gray at the base, and broadly tipped with golden yellow colour; the white hairs on the throat, chest, and rump are of an uniform colour—not tinted with gray at the root;—the hairs of the moustaches are black: the incisors of the upper jaw are of a deep orange colour, and those of the lower jaw are yellow: the thumb nail is truncated.

	In.	Lines.		In.	Lines.
Length from nose to root of tail	8	6	Length of tarsus	2	0
of tail	7	9	of ear	0	6½
from nose to ear	1	8			

Habitat, Bahia Blanca, (*September*.)

This species is nearly equal in size to the common rat (*Mus decumanus*). Of its skull \* I possess but the anterior portion (see Pl. 33. fig. 3, *a*. and 3, *b*.): it appears to have been about the same size as that of *M. decumanus*, its proportions, however, are different: the nasal portion is broader and shorter, the ant-orbital outlet is rather smaller; the plate, forming the anterior root of the zygomatic arch, and which protects this outlet, has its anterior edge distinctly emarginated, and not nearly straight as in *M. decumanus*,—the zygomatic arch is stouter, the space between the orbits is narrower, the palate is more contracted, the incisors are much broader, less deep from front to back, and have the anterior surface more convex; the molar teeth are larger; the lower jaw (see Plate 34. fig. 12, *a*.) when compared with that of *Mus decumanus* also offers many points of dissimilarity; the principal differences consist in its greater strength, the comparatively large size and breadth of the articular surface of the condyles, the upright position of the coronoid process—a perpendicular line dropt from the apex of which would touch the posterior part of the last molar—and the great

\* I am sorry to say the artist has not drawn this skull with his usual fidelity, a circumstance which I did not perceive until it was too late to make any alteration: it is too large, and the incisors are represented as projecting forwards too much; they are in the original so nearly at right angles with the upper surface of the skull that but a very small portion of them is seen, when it is viewed, as represented at fig. 3, *a*.